

CLAIMS

1. A network recording system including a terminal device and a recording server which are connected to a network,

5 the terminal device comprising:

 a receiving unit operable to receive a designation of a program to be recorded, from a user;

 a selecting unit operable to select a user profile to which the user belongs, out of a plurality of user profiles; and

10 a transmitting unit operable to transmit recording instruction information to the recording server, the recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID identifying the program to be recorded and user profile information showing the user profile to which the user belongs, and

15 the recording server comprising:

 a reception unit operable to receive the recording instruction information from the terminal device;

 a recording unit operable to record the program identified by the program ID included in the recording instruction information; and

20 a counting unit operable to count, for each of the plurality of user profiles, a number of times each program ID has been received by the reception unit.

25 2. The network recording system of Claim 1, wherein

 the recording server further comprises:

 a rule generating unit operable to generate a rule to select the user profile to which the user belongs; and

 a transmission unit operable to transmit the generated rule

to the terminal device,

the terminal device further comprises:

a rule storing unit operable to receive and store the rule transmitted from the recording server, and

5 the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

3. The network recording system of Claim 2, wherein
the recording server further comprises:

10 a selection unit operable to select a plurality of programs in one-to-one correspondence with the plurality of user profiles, based on a result of the counting performed by the counting unit,

15 the transmission unit generates selected program information and transmits the selected program information to the terminal device, the selected program information showing a one-to-one correspondence between (i) a plurality of pieces of program information that indicate the plurality of programs selected by the selection unit and (ii) a plurality of pieces of user profile information that represent the plurality of user profiles, and

20 the terminal device further comprises:
a presenting unit operable to receive the selected program information from the recording server, and present the selected program information to the user.

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4. The network recording system of Claim 3, wherein
the presenting unit extracts a piece of program information corresponding to the user profile to which the user belongs, from the selected program information, and presents the extracted piece

of program information to the user.

5. The network recording system of Claim 2, wherein
the terminal device further comprises:

5 a program guide information obtaining unit operable to obtain
program guide information showing program IDs and corresponding
genre IDs that represent program genres of programs identified
by the program IDs; and

10 a history storing unit operable to, every time the receiving
unit receives a designation of a program to be recorded, determine
a genre ID corresponding to a program ID identifying the program
to be recorded with reference to the program guide information,
and count and record therein a number of times the genre ID is
designated by the user, and

15 the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the
user belongs, based on a result of the counting performed by the
history storing unit and the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

6. The network recording system of Claim 3, wherein
20 the terminal device further comprises:

a program guide information obtaining unit operable to obtain
program guide information showing program IDs and corresponding
genre IDs that represent program genres of programs identified
by the program IDs; and

25 a history storing unit operable to, every time the receiving
unit receives a designation of a program to be recorded, determine
a genre ID corresponding to a program ID identifying the program
to be recorded with reference to the program guide information,
and count and record therein a number of times the genre ID is

designated by the user, and

the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on a result of the counting performed by the history storing unit and the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

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7. The network recording system of Claim 4, wherein
the terminal device further comprises:

10 a program guide information obtaining unit operable to obtain program guide information showing program IDs and corresponding genre IDs that represent program genres of programs identified by the program IDs; and

15 a history storing unit operable to, every time the receiving unit receives a designation of a program to be recorded, determine a genre ID corresponding to a program ID identifying the program to be recorded with reference to the program guide information, and count and record therein a number of times the genre ID is designated by the user, and

20 the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on a result of the counting performed by the history storing unit and the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

8. The network recording system of Claim 2, wherein

the receiving unit receives an input of personal information from the user, and

25 the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on the personal information and the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

9. The network recording system of Claim 3, wherein

the receiving unit receives an input of personal information from the user, and

the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on the personal information and the rule stored 5 in the rule storing unit.

10. The network recording system of Claim 4, wherein

the receiving unit receives an input of personal information from the user, and

10 the selecting unit selects the user profile to which the user belongs, based on the personal information and the rule stored in the rule storing unit.

11. A recording server comprising:

15 a reception unit operable to receive, from an external device, recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID identifying a program and user profile information indicating a user profile to which a user belongs;

20 a recording unit operable to record the program identified by the program ID included in the recording instruction information; and

a counting unit operable to count, for each of a plurality of user profiles, a number of times each program ID has been received by the reception unit.

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12. The recording server of Claim 11, further comprising:

a selection unit operable to select programs in one-to-one correspondence with user profiles, based on a result of the counting performed by the counting unit; and

5 a transmission unit operable to generate selected program information and transmit the selected program information to the external device, the selected program information showing a one-to-one correspondence between (i) a plurality of pieces of program information that indicate the programs selected by the selection unit and (ii) a plurality of pieces of user profile information that represent the user profiles.

13. A terminal device comprising:

10 a receiving unit operable to receive a designation of a program to be recorded from a user;

15 a selecting unit operable to select a user profile to which the user belongs, out of a plurality of user profiles;

20 a transmitting unit operable to transmit recording instruction information to an external device, the recording instruction information including a program ID identifying the program to be recorded and user profile information indicating the user profile to which the user belongs;

25 a reception unit operable to receive, from the external device, selected program information showing a one-to-one correspondence between (i) a plurality of pieces of program information that respectively indicate programs and (ii) a plurality of pieces of user profile information which respectively represent the plurality of user profiles; and

30 a presenting unit operable to extract a piece of program information corresponding to the user profile to which the user belongs, from the selected program information and present the extracted piece of program information to the user.

14. A designated program counting system including a terminal device and a server which are connected to a network, the terminal device comprising:

5 a receiving unit operable to receive a designation of a program, from a user;

a selecting unit operable to select a user profile to which the user belongs, out of a plurality of user profiles; and

10 a transmitting unit operable to transmit instruction information to the server, the instruction information including a combination of a program ID identifying the designated program and user profile information showing the user profile to which the user belongs, and

the server comprising:

15 a reception unit operable to receive the instruction information from the terminal device; and

a counting unit operable to count, for each of the plurality of user profiles, a number of times each program ID has been received by the reception unit.

20 15. A recording-instructed program counting method comprising steps of:

receiving recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID and user profile information;

25 recording a program identified by the program ID included in the recording instruction information; and

counting a number of times, for each of a plurality of user profiles, each program ID has been received in the receiving step.

16. A computer-readable program to cause a computer to execute

a program counting operation comprising steps of:

receiving recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID and user profile information;

recording a program identified by the program ID included 5 in the recording instruction information; and

counting a number of times, for each of a plurality of user profiles, each program ID has been received in the receiving step.

17. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable 10 program which causes a computer to execute a program counting operation, the program counting operation comprising steps of:

receiving recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID and user profile information;

recording a program identified by the program ID included 15 in the recording instruction information; and

counting a number of times, for each of a plurality of user profiles, each program ID has been received in the receiving step.

18. An integrated circuit for use in a recording server including 20 a transmission unit operable to transmit, to a terminal device, a rule to select, out of a plurality of user profiles, a user profile to which a user belongs, a reception unit operable to receive recording instruction information including a combination of a program ID identifying a program to be recorded and user profile 25 information indicating the user profile to which the user belongs, and a recording unit operable to record the program indicated by the program ID included in the recording instruction information, the integrated circuit comprising:

a rule generating unit operable to generate the rule; and

a counting unit operable to count, for each of the plurality of user profiles, a number of times each program ID has been received by the reception unit.

5 19. An integrated circuit for use in a terminal device including a receiving unit operable to receive, from an external device, a rule to select, out of a plurality of user profiles, a user profile to which a user belongs, the integrated circuit comprising:

10 a rule storing unit operable to store the rule received by the receiving unit; and

a selecting unit operable to select the user profile to which the user belongs, out of the plurality of user profiles, based on the rule stored in the rule storing unit.